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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/774,885	02/01/2001	Scott Keller	Q62892	3182
7590	07/25/2006		EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20037-3213			DO, ANH HONG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/774,885	KELLER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ANH H. DO	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 2 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 5,8-10,12,13 and 18-23 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,3,4,6,7,11,14-17,24,27 and 28 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 25, 26 and 29-32 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 5/1/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the Applicant's arguments that "Hiyama does not disclose or suggest that, in compressing data, the compression ratio needs to be controlled", it is agreeable. However, since the compressed data amount needs to be controlled in Hiyama, the change of compression ratio in Yoshida can be used for the control. Thus, the Yoshida reference can be combined with Hiyama to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1 and 14. Furthermore, the Yoshida's system primarily looks at available space when varying the compression ratio (see Abstract), it is clearly that the data amount is considered so that it can be filled in the space and the data loss therefore never occurs. Because the combined system does teach every claim feature, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established.

With respect to claim 24, the Applicant contends that Hiyama does not teach or suggest that two irreversible compressed image data are created from the original image data, it should be noted that the endoscope image data and the ultrasonic image data are both original image data from which the irreversible endoscope compressed image and the irreversible ultrasonic compressed image are created (see Fig. 8).

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the rejection should be sustained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 14-17, 24, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,361,203) in view of Yoshida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,690,417).

Regarding claim 1, Hiyama discloses an image storage and display system comprising an image server 6 storing image data recorded on a high readout-speed capable storage medium 70 and a display terminal 63 connected to said image server via a network (Fig. 8), wherein:

- said image server 6 is provided with a storage control means 68 that creates reversible compressed image data of the original image data, and at least one irreversible compressed image data (Fig. 8; col. 5, lines 17-26), and stores in storage medium 70 said reversible compressed image data and said irreversible compressed image data, which stand for the multiple versions of image data (Fig. 8 and col. 5, lines 26-30);

- said display terminal 63 is provided with an input means 62 capable of receiving specification of a version of the image data or the image data group to be displayed on said display terminal 63, and acquisition means 72 for acquiring the

version of said image data or said image data group received in said input means (Fig. 8).

Hiyama does not disclose expressly changing a compression ratio of said irreversible compressed image data.

Yoshida discloses controlling (i.e., changing) a compression ratio of the irreversible compressed image data (col. 3, lines 43-50 and col. 31, lines 26-28).

Hiyama & Yoshida are combinable because they are from image compression field.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to change the compression ratio of the irreversible compressed image data as taught by Yoshida in the compression system of Hiyama.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been able to control the amount of image data to be stored in the memory (Yoshida, col. 3, lines 47-50, and Hiyama, col. 6, lines 20-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hiyama with Yoshida to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Hiyama teaches:

- wherein said storage control means 68 assigns to each version a parameter representing the image usage purpose represented by each version of image data (col. 5, lines 23-26, teaches a patient data is added to each version of the image data), and stores each version of image data in the storage medium 70 (Fig. 8);

- said input means 62 is capable of receiving specification of the version of

image data as the image usage purpose represented by each version of said image data (corresponding to the patient data) (Fig. 8, and col. 5, lines 13-17);

- wherein the image recording control device 72 (corresponding to the claimed acquisition means) retrieves (i.e., acquires) the version of image data corresponding to the desired image usage purpose (i.e., patient data) received in input means 62 (Fig. 8 and col. 5, lines 53-56).

Regarding claim 6, Hiyama teaches:

- said storage control means 68 stores in said storage medium 70 said multiple versions of image data along with the original image data diagnosis information (Fig. 8 and col. 5, lines 50-56, teaches diagnosis information, e.g., patient examination database);

- said acquisition means 72 acquires the versions of image data and image data groups along with said diagnosis information received in input means 62 (Fig. 8 and col. 5, lines 53-56, teaches retrieving a patient data in the patient examination database).

Regarding claim 7, Hiyama teaches:

- said image server 6 is provided with a diagnosis-status management means 76 for managing the diagnosis status (i.e., the examination ID data) of said original image data (Fig. 8);

- said storage control means 68 controls, according to said diagnosis status, which versions of image data are acquired at said display terminal 63 (Fig. 8).

Regarding claim 11, although neither Hiyama nor Yoshida specifically teach that the compression ratio is 1/5 to 1/50, such limitation is merely a matter of design choice and would be obvious in the combined system of Hiyama and Yoshida. Yoshida teaches controlling (i.e., changing) a compression ratio of the irreversible compressed image data (col. 3, lines 43-50 and col. 31, lines 26-28). The limitation of claim 11 does not define a patentably distinct invention over that in Hiyama and Yoshida since both the invention as a whole and Hiyama and Yoshida are directed to changing the compression ratio. The degree in which the compression ratio is changed is inconsequential for the invention as a whole and presents no new or unexpected result, so long as the compression ratio is successfully changed. Therefore, to have the compression ratio that is 1/5 to 1/50 in Hiyama and Yoshida would have been a matter of design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Regarding claim 14, Hiyama discloses:

- said image server 6 is provided with a storage control means 68 that creates reversible compressed image data of the original image data, and at least one irreversible compressed image data (Fig. 8; col. 5, lines 17-26), and stores in storage medium 70 said reversible compressed image data and said irreversible compressed image data, which stand for the multiple versions of image data (Fig. 8 and col. 5, lines 26-30);

- said display terminal 63 is provided with an input means 62 capable of receiving specification of a version of the image data or the image data group to be displayed on said display terminal 63, and acquisition means 72 for acquiring the

version of said image data or said image data group received in said input means (Fig. 8).

Hiyama does not disclose expressly changing a compression ratio of said irreversible compressed image data.

Yoshida discloses controlling (i.e., changing) a compression ratio of the irreversible compressed image data (col. 3, lines 43-50 and col. 31, lines 26-28).

Hiyama & Yoshida are combinable because they are from image compression field.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to change the compression ratio of the irreversible compressed image data as taught by Yoshida in the compression system of Hiyama.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been able to control the amount of image data to be stored in the memory (Yoshida, col. 3, lines 47-50, and Hiyama, col. 6, lines 20-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hiyama with Yoshida to obtain the invention as specified in claim 14.

Regarding claim 15, Hiyama teaches wherein said reversible compressed image data and said at least one irreversible compressed image data are stored on one physical device 70 (Fig. 8; col. 5, lines 26-30).

Regarding claim 16, Hiyama teaches wherein the version of the image data is defined by compression type (col. 5, lines 17-23, teaching irreversible compression type).

Regarding claim 17, Hiyama teaches wherein the image data group represents a plurality of image data with the same version (col. 4, line 65 – col. 5, line 4, teaching a plurality of image data comprising the endoscope image data and the ultrasonic image data in the same version).

Regarding claim 24, Hiyama teaches two irreversible compressed images (Fig. 8: image compression device 66 for creating an irreversible endoscope compressed image and an irreversible ultrasonic compressed image from the endoscope image data and the ultrasonic image data received by image data/Id device 62).

Regarding claim 27, Hiyama discloses the storage control means 68 and the display terminal 63 is separated from the server 74 (Fig. 8).

Regarding claim 28, Hiyama discloses the input means 62 and the acquisition means 72 (Fig. 8).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 5, 8-10, 12, 13, and 18-23 are allowed.
5. Claims 25, 26 and 29-32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding independent claim 5, the prior art, either taken singly or in combination, does not teach:

- wherein said storage control means... to a progressively extractable data-compression process, and wherein said acquisition means... compressed image data.

Regarding claims 12, 13, 18, 22, and 23 since they depend upon claim 5, they are also allowable for the same reason.

Regarding independent claims 8-10, the prior art, either taken singly or in combination, does not teach:

- deleting the original image data and/or the reversible compressed image data from high readout-speed capable storage medium after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

Regarding claims 19-21, since they depend claims 8-10, respectively, they are also allowable for the same reason.

Regarding claim 25, the prior art, either taken singly or in combination, does not teach:

- wherein the two irreversible compressed images are created using different compression ratios.

Regarding claim 26, the prior art, either taken singly or in combination, does not teach:

- wherein a plurality of compression ratios are selectable by the storage control means based on a type of apparatus creating the original image data.

Regarding claims 29 and 31, the prior art, either taken singly or in combination, does not teach:

- said storage control means assigns a parameter or parameters representing an image quality to each said version of said image data and stores each said version of said image data in said storage medium.

Regarding claims 30 and 32, the prior art, either taken singly or in combination, does not teach:

- said storage control means assigns a parameter or parameters representing an image quality to each version of image data corresponding to said image data group and stores each said version of said image data corresponding to said image data group in said storage medium.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANH H. DO whose telephone number is 571-272-7433. The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4-9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MATTHEW BELLA can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

July 19, 2006


ANH HONG DO
PRIMARY EXAMINER